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Massachusetts Archives At U/Mass-Columbia Point: A NEW PERSPECTIVE

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Representatives in
that if any person or persons
of any evil and wicked
fate or crime, who
any and each man from
where the dead body with
to employ it or who in any
all use, practice or
person shall be with the
no part thereof. What the
unwilling, being of any
ainted shall suffer pain

Columbia Point
B65 R.M

A Proposal Prepared by the Boston Redevelopment Authority
for Paul Guzzi, Secretary of the Commonwealth
and the Archives Building Commission
Sen. Chester G. Atkins, Chairman; Rep. Vincent J. Piro, Chairman



A New Perspective . . .

The Massachusetts State Archives is one of the most historic in the nation. We are fortunate to have in our collection significant historic documents that describe the progress and turmoil that have contributed to the Commonwealth's heritage from the early 1600's to the present. For too long, however, we have been severely hampered in our ability to collect, display and restore these materials because of inadequate facilities. Precious historic documents and objects have been scattered throughout the state, hidden in corners of buildings, unnoticed, improperly cared for and unprotected.

In an effort to resolve this problem, a search was begun a year ago to find a new site for the State Archives, a site that would be accessible to both visitors and researchers interested in Massachusetts history, and large enough to store valuable state documents. As a result of this search, we now propose a site at Columbia Point in Dorchester, between the University of Massachusetts and the proposed John F. Kennedy Library, as the best location for the new State Archives.

The Columbia Point site is 2.5 miles from the Massachusetts Turnpike and three miles from downtown Boston; it is 10 minutes by expressway and 15 minutes by public transportation to the State House. It affords excellent views of the Boston skyline, the Harbor Islands and Dorchester Bay.

The new State Archives will be located adjacent to the University of Massachusetts, providing excellent opportunities for joint research, academic programs and the sharing of mutual facilities. In addition, through its proximity to the John F. Kennedy Library, the Archives will be able to attract significant numbers of the projected one million yearly visitors to the Library.

The proposed Archives will include enough storage space to maintain existing state documents as well as future state records. The facility will have an expanded museum, document preservation rooms, and modern office space. The land adjacent to the building will be landscaped as a marine arboretum and will also accommodate necessary future expansion.

The location of the State Archives at Columbia Point in Dorchester can mark a new beginning for Massachusetts. During this Bicentennial year, it is particularly appropriate that we should rededicate our energies and resources to the preservation of our heritage. We can do this by creating an Archives facility where this, and future generations, can gain an understanding of our history and development as a state and can plan wisely for the years to come.

Paul Guzzi

Secretary of the Commonwealth

Long

To his Excell^{ty} the Earle of
Dartmouth Govern^r of his Maj^{ty}s Col^{ly}
Massachusetts Bay in N^o Eng^l. &c.
Honourable Councill

The Petition of Sarah Kidd Wm



That Yo^r Petition^r Husband Cap^t W^m Kidd
being committed unto the Comon Goale in Boston
for Syracie; and under a right durance, as
alloe in want of necessary assistance, as well as
from Yo^r Petition^r Affection, to her husband
humbly pray's that Yo^r Excell^{ty} & Councill
will be pleased to permitt the sd Sarah Kidd
to have Communication, with her husband for
his reliefe, in such due Season & manner as by
Yo^r Excell^{ty} & Councill may be thot fitt &
prescribed, to which Yo^r Petition^r shall thank-
fully conforme her selfe. & ever pray &c.

Boston 25th July 1699.

Sarah SK Kidd

NEED FOR NEW ARCHIVES

Inadequate Storage Facilities

The Massachusetts State Archives currently has 4,500 square feet of storage space. Of this, only 2,600 square feet have proper climate control and security provisions. Because of the lack of appropriate storage space, many valuable and historic documents are completely inaccessible to the public and therefore unavailable for use; they are also stored under conditions that invite theft and decay. Further, rooms designed for a special purpose, such as microfilming, must be used instead for document storage and are unable to fulfill their intended function.

Lack of storage room has also meant that the Archives has been restricted to Legislative papers and has been unable to accept and preserve the records of the Executive and Judicial branches of State government.

The 100-year-old papers of Horace Mann, for example, are held in the Department of Education. The papers of Frederick Law Olmsted, equally as historic, are held by the Metropolitan District Commission. Other examples abound.

These records occupy expensive space in working offices that could be more efficiently used for other purposes. It is estimated that it costs approximately \$9 per year to store each cubic foot of records in an office as opposed to \$2 per year in an archival facility specially designed for the storage of records.

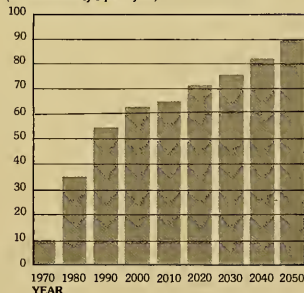
These records are susceptible to theft, loss or deterioration because of improper care. A new Archives would save them and others like them by providing high-quality but inexpensive facilities for the storage of the historically valuable documents of the Commonwealth.

Future Storage Demands

When properly arranged in a new storage facility, the records now held in the State House Archives will expand to approximately 10,000 square feet. The collection of Executive records of historic value would add an additional 25,000 square feet. Older and more valuable Judicial documents would also be acquired, adding another 15,000 square feet.

Once this consolidation process is completed, the Archives is expected to grow at a relatively steady rate. This growth will result from the normal flow of records from the office of creation through the State's Records Center to the Archives. This process is expected to add about 5,000 square feet of records per decade.

DOCUMENT STORAGE SPACE REQUIREMENTS
(In thousands of square feet)



Inadequate Museum Facilities

Some 100,000 persons visited the Archives Museum last year.

Unfortunately, it is too small and poorly equipped to present Massachusetts history in the proper manner. A well designed museum that is accessible to visitors is needed.

Since very few museum visitors understand the purpose of archives, exhibits should explain the Archives' usefulness to historians, genealogists, political scientists and government officials. A participatory display on document preservation could let visitors touch different types of paper and see how a document is repaired and preserved.

A major exhibit of the museum would be devoted to the governmental history of the Commonwealth, with the Mayflower Compact, Massachusetts Bay Company Charter and State Constitution prominently featured.

The development of a New England town would be a continuing exhibit, designed to show the Archives' historical map collection and to encourage participation by local historical societies.

The roles of individuals can also be illustrated. Historical anecdotes can be told about Governor Bradford's struggle for survival at Plymouth, Governor Andrew's inspired leadership during the Civil War, and Governor Coolidge's bravery during the Boston Police strike.

Period pieces about more familiar historical events would also be included. The Archives' materials on witchcraft, Daniel Shays' Rebellion or the Revolution could be displayed.

Research Room Overcrowded

Approximately 2,000 researchers use the materials at the Archives each year. Unfortunately, many of the documents in the Archives' collection are not available because they are stored improperly. Many records that should be in the Archives' collection are scattered throughout working offices, and the research room itself is overcrowded and often overlooked in the basement of the State House.

A new facility would comfortably accommodate 20 researchers at one time, without sacrificing security. It would provide space for microfilm reading and a badly needed library.

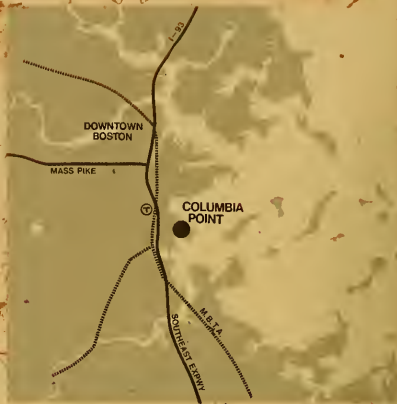
No Document Preservation Facilities

Facilities do not exist for the application of restoration techniques to decaying documents. Many of the State's priceless historical records are being lost because of an inability to prevent deterioration.

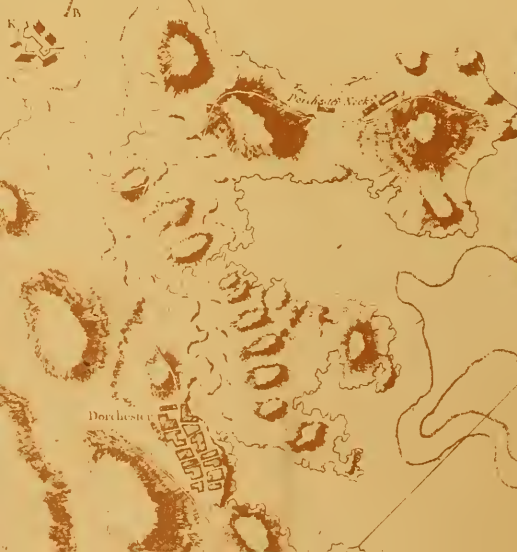
A new facility that provides adequate storage space in addition to proper preservation facilities is badly needed.

In the fifteenth Year of the reign of George, the Third, King of





PROPOSED SITE



SITE SELECTION

Site Criteria

The Site for the Massachusetts State Archives should be:

- Convenient to a large number of people
- Convenient to public transit
- Convenient for automobile access
- Near adequate parking
- Large enough to accommodate expansion
- Near an existing visitor attraction
- Near an educational institution(s)

Site Selection Process

A search was begun a year ago for existing buildings that might be converted for use by the Archives or vacant land suitable for a new Archives facility. No existing buildings were found that met the Archives' special needs for climate control, document security and future expansion.

Of the vacant parcels of land that were considered, only the site at Columbia Point between the University of Massachusetts and the proposed John F. Kennedy Library met all of the criteria established for locating the Archives; it also offered some unique opportunities for attracting visitors and developing special programs.

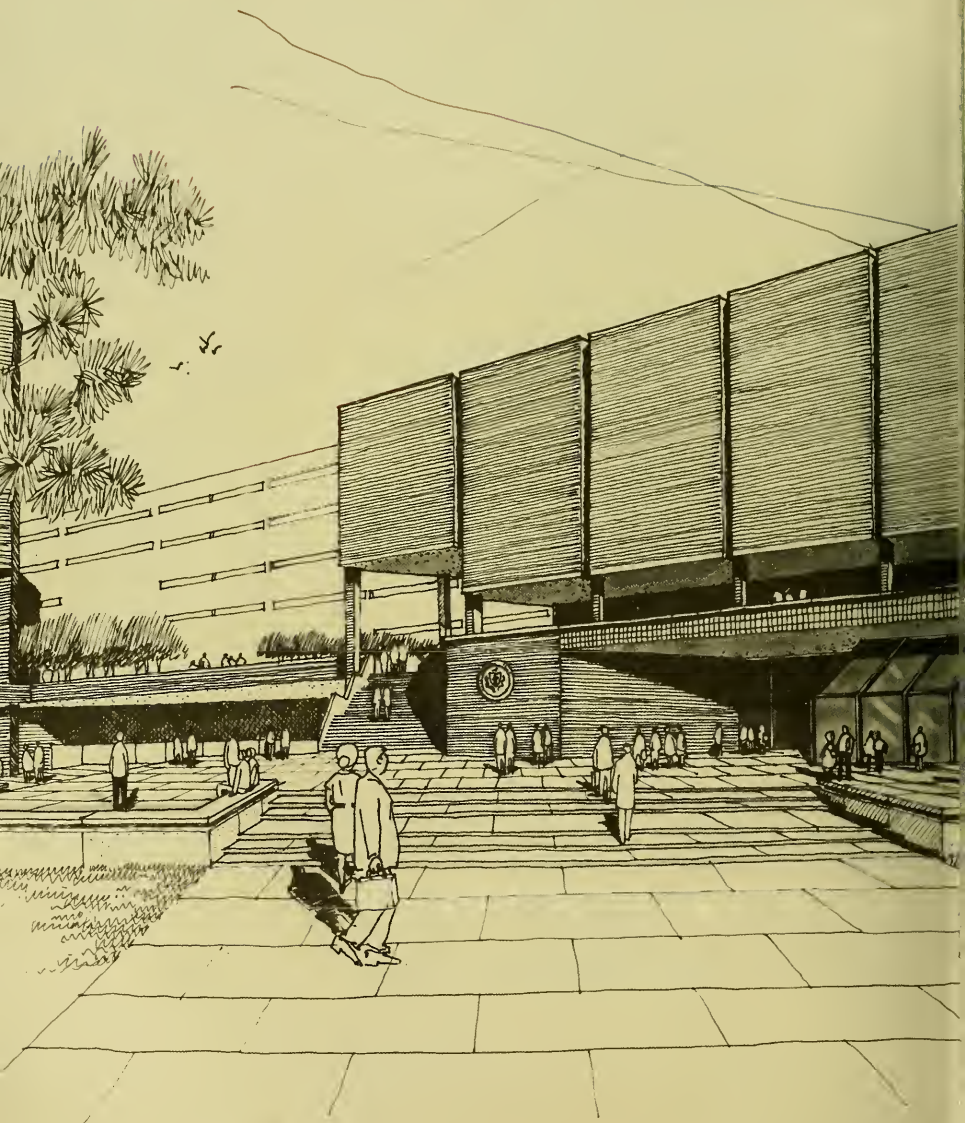
The Proposed Site

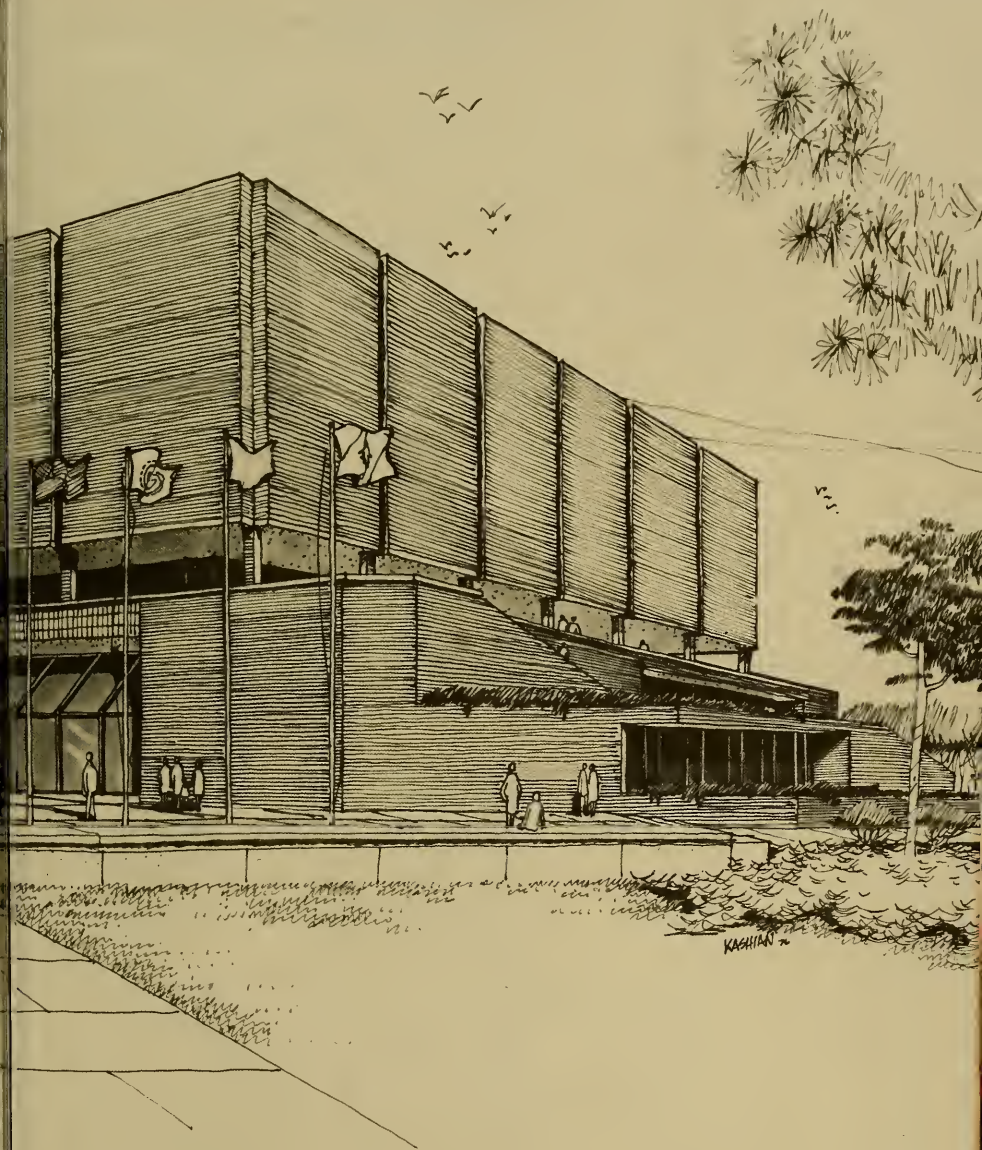
The proposed site, adjacent to the University of Massachusetts overlooking Dorchester Bay, provides excellent opportunities for relating the State's public institution of higher learning to the museum and research functions of the Archives. In addition, it is anticipated that the John F. Kennedy Library will attract at least a million visitors a year to the site. A substantial portion of these visitors can be expected to visit the State Archives/Museum as well.

The site is located just 10 minutes by automobile from downtown Boston and the Massachusetts Turnpike via the Southeast Expressway. Ample parking for visitors to the Archives is located under the existing College 1 building. Tour and school buses would park at grade next to the Archives building.

The site is a 15-minute trip by M.B.T.A. from Park Street Station on the Red Line to Columbia Station. The free University shuttle bus would bring visitors to the plaza level of the University, from which it is a short walk across the campus to the Archives site.

VIEW OF ARCHIVES / MUSEUM





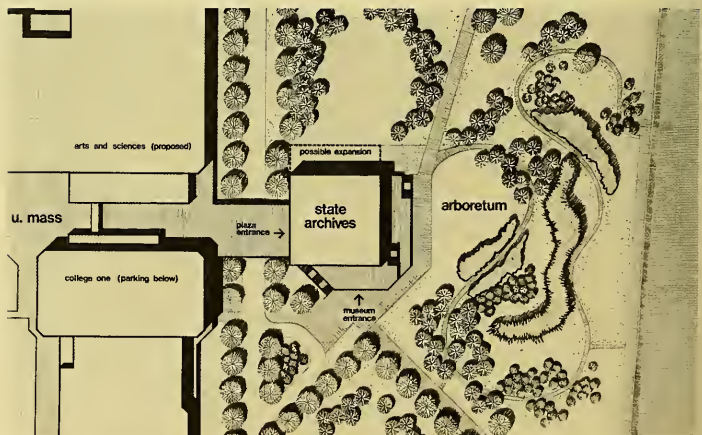
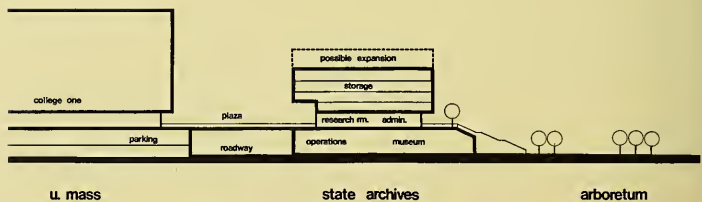
PROPOSED ARCHIVES BUILDING

Proposed Structure

The proposed Archives building is six stories high. Each level contains approximately 18,000 square feet in gross floor area. The museum and operations areas are located at ground level, maximizing accessibility to the John F. Kennedy Library. The research area and administrative offices are located at the plaza level, providing direct access to the University. The archival storage is located above the plaza on four levels.

Expansion could occur either horizontally or vertically as shown on the schematic site plan and section.

A marine arboretum with sitting areas and a seaside walk would be developed as part of the Archives. This site development would capitalize on the proximity to the ocean and the spectacular waterfront view, drawing people down to the water's edge.



New-English Affairs.

Published to prevent False Reports

her, To the Go-
Deal in Kent.

Ordered a Bill
restoration of
Some
did bestir
it has pleased
citations here
mentioned in

that referred

to a Committee for Enlargement. What con-
s N. England passed without any great op-
tion. The Bill has been in part read the third
me, and the Charters of N. Eng. then also pas-
without Objection. Only some Additional
clauses respecting Corporations here, caused De-
ces; so that the Bill is not as yet Enacted.

In the latter end of June, a Vessel from Mount
e arrived here, which brought your Declaration
of April 18. with an account of the Revoluti-
in New-England. The week after I went to
upon Court, and had the favour to wait on His
Majesty, who told me, That He did accept of, and
well pleased with what was done in New-England,
that he would order the Secretary of State to signi-
much, and that His Subjects there should have their
Ancient Rights and Privileges restored to them.

The King has sent a Gracious Letter (which
delivered to me, and if I return not my self,
all take care that it be sent to you) bearing
date August 12. Wherein He signifies His Royal Ap-
probation of what has been done at Boston,
assures you that the Government there shall
be settled, so as shall be for the Security and
Satisfaction of His Subjects in that Colony, and
in the mean time bids you go on to Administer
Laws, and manage the Government, according
to your Address you have Petitioned.

My Lord Mordent (now Earl of Monmouth)
has assured you that He would be your Friend,
and he bade me tell you from him, That your
Rights should be restored to you by Act of Parliament.
I have been with most of the Kings most Hon-
ble Privy Council, who have promised to be-
hind New-England as there shall be occasion for
The like I may say, of all the Leading men
of the Parliament.

*A Passage extracted from the publick News
Letter, Dated July 6. 1689.*

The people of New-England having made
thorow Revolution, and secured the publick
Criminals. On Thursday last, the Reverend
and Learned Mr. Mather, President of the Col-
ledge, and Minister of Boston, waited on the
King; and in a most Excellent Speech laid be-
fore His Majesty, the State of that People
saying; That they were sober, and Industrious
and fit for Martial Service; and all with their
Lives and Interests were at His Majesties Com-
mand, to render the same unto His Majesty.
That they desired nothing but His Majesties Ac-
ceptance of what they had done, and His Pro-
tection; and that if His Majesty pleased to en-
rage and Commission them, He might easily
Emperour of America. His Majesty assured
him, that He was pleased with what was done
for Him, and for themselves in the Revolu-
tion, and that their Priviledges and Rights
should be secured unto them.

*Extracted from a Letter of Mr. Mather, to
Son, Dated Sept. 2. 1689.*

On July 4. The King said unto me, That
He did kindly Accept of what was done in Bos-
ton. And that His Subjects in New-England
should have their Ancient Rights and Priviledges
Restored and Confirmed unto them. Yea,
I told me, That if it were in his power to ca-
it to be done it should be done, and bade me
rest assured of it.

The Charter-Bill is not finished, becau-
some Additional Clauses respecting Corpo-
rations here in England caused a Debate; and
the Parliament is for some weeks Adjourned.

Besides the Letter from the Kings Majesty
whereof we have notice as above, there is



The image is a composite. The left side features a close-up of a manuscript page with Latin text in a Gothic script. The text is arranged in two columns. The right side is a photograph of a large, multi-story building with many windows, likely a university or institutional building. The building has a classical architectural style with a prominent entrance and a series of windows on the upper floors.

[illegible]

Proposed Program

The Massachusetts State Archives requires a building that provides sufficient space for the storage and display of historic documents and artifacts, as well as offices and workrooms for the Archives staff.

The following space program for the Archives Building is the result of a detailed analysis of these various needs and represents a realistic estimate of the kind of facility necessary in order to develop a quality archival program in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

	<u>SQ. FT.</u>
Archival Storage Area	50,000

Space for documents now in the Archives collection in addition to the Legislative, Executive and Judicial documents projected for the next 20 years. All storage areas would be provided with the proper climate control and security. Expansion could increase the storage capacity substantially.

Museum	12,000
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An area adequate to display historical documents and artifacts properly and to accommodate the increased number of visitors attracted to the Archives because of its proximity to the John F. Kennedy Library.

Research Area	3,000
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Facilities for the 20 to 25 researchers expected to use the archival materials at one time, including a reading room, small reference library and microfilm reading room.

Operations	4,000
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Areas for receiving, processing, preserving, restoring and duplicating documents.

Administration	3,000
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Offices, work areas and meeting room for the Archives staff.

TOTAL NET ASSIGNABLE AREA	<u>72,000</u>
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PRELIMINARY COST ESTIMATE

A.	BUILDING	\$6,000,000
B.	SUB-SOIL WORK (Foundations, piles, methane protection)	300,000
C.	SITE DEVELOPMENT AND LANDSCAPING	900,000
D.	FURNISHINGS AND EQUIPMENT	400,000
	SUB TOTAL	<u>\$7,600,000</u>
E.	FEES (architectural and engineering)	700,000
	SUB TOTAL	<u>\$8,300,000</u>
F.	CONTINGENCY (20%)	<u>1,660,000</u>
	TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COST	<u>\$9,960,000</u>

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March 1976

Columbia Point B65R.M
Boston Redevelopment Auth.
The Mass. Archives at U/Mass-
Columbia Point.

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Governour, Council and
Authority of the same,
any Invocation or Conjur-
ment with Entertain, for
any Intent or purpose, or for
their Lives, or any other place
part of any dead person to
speak or Enchantment, or
charm or Sorcery, whereby
med in his or her body, or
their Names, Letters and
lawfully convicted and c

ent that all manner of practi